

to our knowledge are not always credited to those by whom they were actually made.

We have no desire at this late period to enter into a detailed examination of the views advanced by our authors in respect to the several diseases of which they treat. In making such an examination we should find but few occasions for dissent, and few errors to point out. The lectures of Drs. Bell and Stokes have become already ranked among the standard American works on the theory and practice of medicine, and we admit, deservedly so, as well from their fullness as from their general accuracy in doctrine, as regards both pathology and therapeutics. And though, perhaps, a work less adapted than some others for the instruction of mere students, it will be found particularly valuable for the use of the practitioner.

In our perusal of the work before us we have noted a few typographical errors. Some of these are particularly unfortunate, occurring, as they do, in the Greek etymologies of technical terms, or in the names of foreign treatises referred to as authorities. Thus we have $\pi\epsilon\psi\iota\varsigma$, $\nu\upsilon\rho$, $\kappa\epsilon\rho$, $\mu\epsilon\iota\tau\eta\sigma\eta$, $\sigma\phi\theta\alpha\lambda\mu\alpha\varsigma$, for $\pi\epsilon\psi\iota\varsigma$, $\pi\upsilon\rho$, $\kappa\omicron\rho$, $\mu\epsilon\iota\tau\rho\upsilon$, $\sigma\phi\theta\alpha\lambda\mu\alpha\varsigma$, and *Deobachtungen uber*, for *Beobachtungen über* or *ueber*.

In the ninety-seventh lecture, it is stated that *kink hoart* is the common German name for whooping-cough: this is an error; the disease is known in Germany by the appellation *keichhusten* or *kindhusten*. *Kink hoart* is not German; it is perhaps a misspelling of the Swedish name for the disease, *kik-hosta*. D. F. C.

ART. XXV.—*A Practical Treatise on Poisons; their Symptoms, Antidotes and Mode of Treatment*. By O. H. COSTILL, M. D. Philadelphia, Grigg, Elliot and Co., 1848. pp. 160: 12mo.

This is an excellent compend, and a well and clearly arranged digest of the facts and opinions of the latest and most esteemed authorities; but would be far more useful, if the author had also given a synopsis of the tests for the several poisons; as without a precise knowledge of the article that has been taken, any attempt to administer an antidote would be mere guess work, and in many cases might increase instead of mitigating the evil. Dr. Costill claims no "originality for the work except in design," but has "endeavoured to collect and arrange the symptoms, post-mortem appearances and treatment of poisoning, from the best writers on the subject." We laud him for his candour, so rare in this book-making age, when we find so many works on the most important subjects claimed as new and original, which have cost the would-be author little exertion beyond the mere putting together of other men's labours. We fully admit the value of good compilations when they present a condensation of materials often-times sparingly scattered through numerous and expensive publications, but we do complain that in too many cases, these compilations are offered to the world as wholly original, without the slightest allusion to the source whence the information has been derived.

In conclusion, we can recommend Dr. Costill's treatise to the attention of the profession, and hope that it may meet with due encouragement. R. E. G.

ART. XXVI.—*Medical Lexicon. A Dictionary of Medical Science, containing a concise explanation of the various subjects and terms, with the French and other Synonyms, notices of Climate and of celebrated Mineral Waters. Formulae for various official and empirical Preparations, etc.* By ROBERT DUNGLISON, M. D., Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, etc., in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. Seventh Edition, carefully revised and greatly enlarged. Philadelphia, 1848: 8vo. pp. 912. Lea and Blanchard.

WHEN the demand for a work is such as to exhaust six editions, it is certainly strong *prima facie* evidence of its value. In the case of the Medical Dictionary of Dr. Dunglison, this demand has been produced, not only by the general excellence

of the work, but by the fact that in the preparation of each successive edition, the utmost care has been taken to render it more complete and thus increase its adaptation to the wants of both student and physician.

In the sixth edition were comprised nearly two thousand five hundred subjects and terms not contained in the one immediately preceding, many of which had been introduced into medical terminology in consequence of the progress of the science, and others had escaped the author in previous revisions. While, in the edition before us, there have been added between six and seven thousand terms which are not to be found in the preceding editions. To accommodate these, not only has the size of the page been increased, but the entire work has been enlarged by more than one hundred pages.

The great value of a medical dictionary results not merely from its comprising an accurate account of those terms which constitute the present nomenclature of the science, but also from its presenting a definition of all the terms which are liable to be met with in an extended course of medical reading, as well as a list of the various synonymes made use of by distinguished writers, whether of the same or different nations—by the ancient as well as by the modern authorities in medicine and its collateral sciences. In short, to render a medical lexicon a useful and satisfactory book of reference to the student and physician, it should be sufficiently comprehensive to prevent disappointment, when its pages are consulted for any term “that has been legitimated in the nomenclature of the science,” even though it may have ceased to be used by writers of the present day.

It is in this point of view that the Medical Dictionary of Dr. Dunglison recommends itself to the profession. It is certainly more complete and comprehensive than any with which we are acquainted in the English language; while, in its extreme accuracy, the fullness and comprehensiveness of its definitions, and the general convenience of its arrangement it will bear a very favourable comparison with either of the leading medical lexicons of France or Germany.

Few, in fact, could be found better qualified than Dr. Dunglison for the production of such a work. Learned, industrious, persevering and accurate, he brings to the task all the peculiar talents necessary for its successful performance: while, at the same time, his familiarity with the writings of the ancient and modern “masters of our art,” renders him skillful to note the exact usage of the several terms of science, and the various modifications which medical terminology has undergone with the change of theories or the progress of improvement.

By a reference to the title-page, it will be perceived that the Dictionary of Dr. Dunglison is not simply a lexicon, in the strict meaning of the term, a mere *wörterbuch*—but that it comprises a variety of subjects besides the definition, description, and etymology of technical terms. These subjects, though treated with great conciseness, increase considerably the interest and usefulness of the work.

D. F. C.

ART. XXVII.—*The Transactions of the American Medical Association. Instituted 1847.*
Vol. 1. Printed for the Association. Phila. 1848: pp. 403.

THIS is a handsomely got up volume of 403 pages, and is illustrated with five plates, two of which are coloured. It contains, in addition to the minutes of the late meeting in Baltimore, the Reports of the several standing committees:—viz. on Medical Sciences, on Practical Medicine, on Surgery, on Obstetrics, on Education, on Medical Literature, and on Publications;—also a report from the committee on Indigenous Botany, and reports from several other special committees; a highly interesting communication from Dr. Edwards of Ohio, on the adulteration of drugs; with various other documents presented to the Association: and three very interesting memoirs, one on Oedematous Laryngitis successfully treated by scarifications of the glottis and epiglottis, by Gurdon Buck, M. D., of New York; a second by the same gentleman, entitled “A new feature in the anatomical structure of the genito-urinary organs, not hitherto described;” and finally one on Ophthalmitis Post-febrilis, by A. Dubois, M. D., of New York.

We are unable at this late period to notice the contents of this volume more